

22. FOOD PREFERENCES IN THE LARVAE OF TWO MOTHS:  
*SPODOPTERA LITURA* F. (FAM. NOCTUIDAE) AND *DIACRISIA*  
*OBLIQUA* WALK. (FAM. ARCTIIDAE)

I would refer to Asha Bassi's paper under the above title [1974, *J. Bombay nat. Hist. Soc.* 71(1):161-163].

In the first place I would query the term 'usual' food-plant for Cauliflower in regard to *Spodoptera litura* F. In my paper "The Food-plants of Indian Agaristidae and Noctuidae (1941, *J. Bombay nat. Hist. Soc.* 42:421 et seq.) I listed seven food-plants for this species, and in a later supplementary paper (1949, *J. Bombay nat. Hist. Soc.* 48:265 et seq.) I added a further sixty-five, ranging from trees to herbs and including both Mono- and Dicotyledons. In a paper now in course of publication I have listed twenty-seven food-plants for its African counter-part *Spodoptera littoralis* Bsd. Obviously both species are highly polyphagous, and doubtless many more food-

plants remain to be discovered.

Secondly, I do not consider that the quoted figures of weights can be used as a basis for any useful comparison. The amount of moisture in the frass varies from food-plant to food-plant, and also with the length of time between evacuation and weighing, when dealing with the same species, whilst different species of larvae may lose moisture through their spiracles at differing rates, resulting in a greater or lesser amount present in the frass at the time of evacuation.

As regards the difference in the lengths of larval life in the two species, it is normal for *Diacrisia* spp. to have a longer larval life than Noctuids, the length of the individual instars is greater and Arctiids have more of them.

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23. ON THE OCCURRENCE OF THE HOODED GRASSHOPPER,  
*TERATODES MONTICOLLIS* GRAY AT ALIGARH

The Hooded grasshopper is an important pest of Teak, *Tectona grandis* Linn. distributed in Western and Southern India. It has also been reported from Bihar, West Bengal, Orissa, Mysore, Madhya Pradesh etc. [*J. Bombay nat. Hist. Soc.* 63 (1):212-213, 1966].

Recently during the month of July 1975 a

few specimens of the Hooded grasshopper, *T. monticollis* were recorded from Aligarh Scindia Fort (lat. 27° 34' 30"N, long. 78° 4' 26"E) feeding upon plants which are hitherto not recorded as their food plants. These plants were identified as:

# MISCELLANEOUS NOTES

PLANT	FAMILY
1). <i>Heliotropium eichwaldi</i>	BORAGINACEAE
2). <i>Solanum nigrum</i>	SOLANACEAE
3). <i>S. melongena</i>	"
4). <i>S. tuberosum</i>	"
5). <i>Datura</i> sp.	"
6). <i>Saccharum officinarum</i>	GRAMINEAE
7). <i>Arundo donax</i>	"
8). <i>Lagenaria vulgaris</i>	CUCURBITACEAE
9). <i>Momordica charantia</i>	"
10). <i>Ricinus communis</i>	EUPHORBACEAE

A preliminary observation on the feeding potential reveals that this grasshopper may be considered as a pest of some important plants in this part of the country. Among the food plants enumerated above, the plants belonging to the family Solanaceae were preferred by the grasshopper to other plants. The grasshopper could not be reared in the laboratory due to some unknown microbial infection in the collected specimens.

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## 24. STUDIES ON THE WATER BUGS (HEMIPTERA: HETEROPTERA) OF CORBETT NATIONAL PARK

The Corbett National Park in Uttar Pradesh occupies an area of 525 sq km in the foothills of the Himalayas. The collections were made by survey parties of Northern Regional Station, Zoological Survey of India, Dehra Dun, from small pools with fresh running water by the sides of the river Ramganga and its tributaries. These pools apparently had no water plants and were seldom more than a foot in depth. The collecting stations within the Corbett National Park were; (Districts—Nainital and Pauri Garhwal).

District Naini Tal: Bij Rani, Jamnagarwar, Malani, Mohan and Sultan.

District Pauri Garhwal: Boxar, Dhikala, Dhulwasote, Gairal, Kanda, Paterpani and Sarpduli.

Eight species of water bugs belonging to the families, Hydrometridae, Naucoridae and Nepidae have been recorded from the park. Most of these agree fairly closely with the descrip-

tions by Distant (1903, 1906), but in a few cases marked differences have been observed and noted.

Family HYDROMETRIDAE

Subfamily Gerrinae

*Gerris sahlbergi* (Distant)

*Material examined*: Bij Rani (4).

Agrees with the published description except in the following; Antennae yellowish-brown; eyes bottle-green; lateral margins of the body silvery-grey; pronotum; notum and postnotum brownish-yellow.

*Known distribution*: Ladak, Leh, Gramphu and Kulti Nal.

*Metrocoris stali* (Dohrn.)

*Material examined*: Dhikala (3), Dhulwasote (2), Malani (6), Mohan (6), Sarpduli (37) and Sultan (1).

Antennae light brownish-yellow; in some specimens both longitudinal black spot of the